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3-19-2011

WKU Fair Trade University Resolution

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Recommended Citation

Vaughan, National Convergence Coordinator, Matthew J. and Harris, Charlie, "WKU Fair Trade University Resolution" (2011). *Fair Trade Convergence Related Materials*. Paper 2.
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Fair Trade University Resolution

WHEREAS:

What students, faculty and staff at WKU choose to purchase, eat, and drink impacts people and the environment around the world.

Producers of coffee, tea, chocolate, handicrafts and other products in developing countries are often paid less than a living wage, and too often child labor is involved.

Conventional means of growing coffee are often damaging to the environment, harming local ecosystems and migrating birds.

The purpose of Fair Trade certification is to ensure a living wage, humane working conditions, no child labor, and environmental sustainability.

Faith communities and campus groups around the country and the world already have committed to supporting Fair Trade.

WKU is one of 350 universities that have endorsed the Talloires Declaration recognizing the role of universities in addressing environmental degradation and other environmental problems, and supporting Fair Trade is a way to meet the third action step to educate for environmentally responsible citizenship.

WKU is recognized by the ONE Campaign as a “Campus of ONE,” dedicated to raising awareness about global poverty and Fair Trade is focused on reducing poverty in developing countries.

Declaring itself a Fair Trade University is one way for WKU to further its mission statement of preparing students to be productive, engaged, and socially responsible citizen leaders of a global society.

By declaring itself a Fair Trade University, WKU would more effectively educate the campus community about Fair Trade.

By declaring itself a Fair Trade University, WKU would be promoting more opportunities for students to engage in international experiences and research.

By declaring itself a Fair Trade University, WKU would be joining the ranks of over 120 Fair Trade Universities around the world including three American colleges.

By declaring itself a Fair Trade University, WKU would enhance its image as a Leading American University with International Reach.

BE IT RESOLVED: That WKU should declare itself to be a Fair Trade University consistent with the terms of the food service contract and other university contracts, which would consist of the following:

- 1. Dining facilities:** The university will work with its food service contractor to make Fair Trade Certified coffee, tea, chocolate and other items available in its dining facilities and convenience stores.
- 2. Catered events:** The university will work with its food service contractor to make Fair Trade Certified coffee, tea and other items available at catered meetings hosted by the university.
- 3. Offices:** The university will work with its food service contractor to make Fair Trade Certified coffee, tea and other items available for university offices at the option of those offices whenever possible.
- 4. Stores:** The university will include Fair Trade products such as handicrafts, jewelry and clothing at the WKU Store whenever possible.
- 5. Education:** The university commits to integrating Fair Trade information and events into the programs and culture of the school, to ensure that the principles of Fair Trade continue to be part of the policy and social fabric of our community.
- 6. Acknowledgment:** The university will identify and acknowledge Fair Trade Certified products at university functions and stores where appropriate (e.g. with signs noting that the coffee is Fair Trade Certified).
- 7. Implementation:** The university, in consultation with WKU Restaurant and Catering Group, the WKU Store and the WKU Fair Trade Steering Group will oversee the implementation of the above commitments.